

Title: Daily Bread
Text: Luke 11.3
Theme: Trusting God for daily needs
Series: Luke
Prop Stmtnt: We pray, understanding that we are dependent on God every day for every need.

If you play on a team where the goal is to have a good time, that influences how you practice (even if you practice) and how you play. If, however, the goal of your team is to win, then that changes things. Knowing the goal informs and motivates your focus and actions right now.

Genesis 1-2 tell us where we came from and Revelation 21-22 tell us the goal. In both, the creation does not have a temple where God lives, but the creation is the temple where God lives with his people. Revelation 21.3 says, “...Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” We were made to gaze on God. We were made to consider God above all and at all times. Sin warped our gaze so that we tend to gaze on ourselves above all. Redemption is the recovery of our gazing on God.

Since God redeemed us in order to be with us, enjoy us and for us to enjoy him, we are to live all the time embracing and enjoying the presence of God even as we depend on God for his provision. God made us to enjoy us and we enjoy him as we are happily dependent on him. That motivates us to pray. In that sense, prayer is a desire. We talk with God because we live in his presence and we anticipate living in his presence in a perfect way. At the same time, prayer is a discipline because we do not yet desire perfectly. We forget that we live in the presence of God and we forget what the end game is. I wish that I loved Cathi perfectly. I don't. I have to write things down that I should do for her because I may forget. We should discipline ourselves to relate to God by listening to his word and by talking to him, but this discipline is to be informed and formed by a desire to enjoy him and be with him.

If you are a follower of Christ, your life is getting ready to be with God. Prayer is helping you get ready to be with God. If you do not pray, it is likely that you simply do not know God because we talk and relate to those we love. In our text, Jesus is teaching his disciples how to pray. They've seen him pray over and over and they want that. So, Jesus teaches them.

Read Text: Luke 11.1-4

1. **God is our Father who gives.** (or God gives as a perfect Father)

Father...Give us.

Jesus tells his disciples to call God, Father because Jesus knows him as Father and Jesus has come to make the Father known to us so that we will know him as Father. Everything that the Father does, he does fatherly, as a perfect father. He gives life. He provides food. Because God is a Father who loves to provide, Jesus instructs us to come to him as our Father and ask him to

give to us. Would Jesus tell us to ask the Father to give to us if the Father was not going to answer that? Of course not! Jesus is the image of the Father. Jesus is God in human flesh. What did Jesus do? He fed 5,000 men plus women and children. On another occasion he fed 4,000 men plus women and children. Why did Jesus come? Did Jesus come to give us bread and fish and do other miracles? Yes, in a way. But the bigger answer is that Jesus came because the Father sent him. The Father GAVE him to us and for us. *For God so loved the world that he GAVE his one and only Son....* God is our Father who gives. Romans 8.32. *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*

If you know a child who is secure, content, happy, funny, and trusting, you think, “that child is well-loved.” The security of the child reflects the love that child is surrounded by. Our Father is a giving father who gives because he loves his children. He loves for us to be secure and trusting. He loves for us to be confident in his care and to know that he will give us everything we need.

Turn to and look at James 1.17. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”* The Father is the source of every good gift and every perfect gift. Before God gave you a good gift, he was and has always been good and a giver. Before God gave you a perfect gift, he was and has always been perfect and a giver. Now, there is a reason why I wanted you to look at James 1.17 and not just listen to it. Go back and look at v.16. James 1.16 says, *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.”* Do you notice the language of family? Not only are we referred to as brothers, but we are called beloved brothers. We are children who are loved and v.17 tells us who we are loved by? We are loved by the Father who gives us good and perfect gifts. So, James is warning us not to be deceived. What do you think he means by that? What is it that he is warning us not to be deceived by? Do not be deceived into thinking that God is not a good and perfect Father who loves to give good and perfect gifts to his children.

Why does James warn us about that? That is how sin entices us. That is what happened to Adam. Instead of beholding the goodness and generosity of God, Adam and Eve turned their gaze to themselves and believed a lie that God was not generous and not good. Adam was tempted to think that breaking God’s command would give him what he did not have. How many of you have an anger problem? What is the source of our anger? We want something that in the moment, we don’t have. We believe that we deserve it and when we don’t get it, we either erupt or we pout. Our anger is ultimately directed at God. James says in 4.1-2 that we desire and do not have so we murder. We covet and do not have, so we fight. What are we supposed to do? We are supposed to ask God. We don’t need to manage our anger, we need to repent of our bad theology because in that moment we failed to believe that God is good and will give us good and perfect gifts. There is a lot to unpack there. And it is worth unpacking. If you have “anger issues” put James 4.1-10 into the slow cooker of your mind this week and pray through this passage. Discuss it with another. Discover how the heart of dealing with your temptation to anger, or lust, or coveting, and to a number of addictive and life dominating sins goes all the way back to this very point of not believing that God is a Father who loves to give. When you embrace this, there are so many other things that fall into place.

2. We are part of “us.”

Give us each day our daily bread

My grandparents and parents each had this picture in their homes. (pic) It is an actual photograph of a man named Charles who was paid \$5 to pose. He was supposed to depict a man who had a hard life, who did not have much, but was thankful. The name of the picture was called, Grace and the photograph (taken around 1917) came from Bovey, MN which for a while had their water tower painted with the words, “the town where the photograph Grace came from.” Whenever I think of these words, “Give us each day our daily bread” I think of this picture. I decided to do a bit of research on it and was a little bummed to discover that the book in the picture was a dictionary and not a Bible and that Charles was known in town for a number of things, but none of them were praying or being thankful. But the photographer (Eric Enstrom) made a small fortune off this picture. Later, the daughter of the photographer made a painting from the photograph and sold that as well. By the way, I don’t want anyone going out and buying this picture at a garage sale and hanging it in my office when I am out of town one time. If you do, I will track you down and put Ohio State stickers on your car.

Not only did I just ruin this picture for many of you, but as I thought about these words, I realized that this image doesn’t capture the entire picture of this text. Yes, I am to be thankful. Yes, I am to ask God for daily bread and be grateful when he provides it. But Jesus talks about “us” and “our” in this, not “me” and “my.” My praying for daily bread needs to include a wider audience than me and my. Again, Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray and he is teaching them to pray that God would give them what they all need. I need to pray with a wide-angle lens and not just a microscope. I need to pray for others to have daily bread and be mindful of their needs. I think that the illustration that Jesus gives beginning in v.5 supports this idea.

So, what are we learning? I need to approach God as a generous Father who is able to provide and who loves to provide good things for his children. Since God uses the prayers of his people to involve us in his good plan, I get to engage with God by praying for others to have what they need. And I should do this all the time.

3. We pray for us daily.

Give us each day our daily bread

Is there some wisdom in being a prepper? Preppers or survivalists refers to those who proactively prepare for emergencies, like the loss of power for a significant amount of time, or the inability to get food or water. So, they stockpile things and have solar panels to charge battery packs or other sources of power. Automatic back-up generators are pretty neat. I think it is prudent to be prepared as long as your preparation does not create a sense of smugness.

The children of Israel were not permitted to be preppers when they were being fed manna. God only gave them what they could use for that day, except on Friday when he would give them

enough for Friday and Saturday. For 40 years, God gave them what they needed for that day. This is a beautiful picture of what this request is intended to do for us. Realize and believe that God is going to give you what you need, today. His grace and provision will show up and you need to know that. So, there is confidence in God's provision yet amazement in God's generosity. This prayer has a sense of immediacy to it. I need the Lord every day. I need the Lord to supply my needs every day. Every day I am prone to think that I am self-sufficient and that I can handle this on my own, which is just wrong. You and I always need the Lord.

When you are about to get a PET scan, or go into surgery, many of you ask for prayer and you, by all means, pray. You are coming face to face with your own mortality and it is sobering. You do not have the ability to control the outcome, so you turn to the one who can and you pray. Beloved, going into surgery is no different than getting out of bed. You cannot control the outcome of the day. That's the point. Apart from God's grace and help, I am going to make a mess of this day. I need him.

If this is how God always wants us to pray, then I need to start praying in deep dependence upon God, and I need to guard my heart from worry about daily needs. If you are consumed by fear of what is going to happen tomorrow. What do you say? "Oh, I don't know what is going to happen? I don't know how this is going to turn out? Can you promise me that everything is going to be fine?" Think about that for a second. When you say, "Oh, I don't know what is going to happen." Do you think anyone besides God does? So, why are you fretting over not having information that no one but God has? I say to people that I know who are prone to worry, "Why pray when you can worry?" After all, worry is so effective at solving problems. Think of all of the wonderful benefits of worry. Think of how much we could improve our lives if we disciplined ourselves to worry more. It helps relationships, makes you feel better, helps you appear to be concerned. But seriously, why pray when you can worry? We pray because we do not presume.

4. We pray in order not to presume.

*Give us each day our **daily bread***

Here is wisdom. Our lives hang by a thread. James 4.14 says that you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Jesus is teaching us not to presume but instead if we acknowledge that our very means of survival is from God, then we should wake up with gratitude that God has sustained us for another day.

Why is Jesus teaching us to pray this way? Why is Jesus teaching us to ask God for daily bread? Because we need it but God does not owe it to us. God loves to give us good things to sustain us, but God does not owe us. He is not in our debt. We live at his bidding and his mercy. When a child believes his parents owe him presents on his birthday or on Christmas, then his birthday and Christmas are miserable because you cannot satisfy, spoiled. If however, the child does not believe that he is owed but sees the presents as gifts of love and grace, then the event is beautiful. When we have a right understanding of what we are before God and how we stand

before God, then we will have a much deeper awareness of where we really stand before him right now.

In 2 Kings 22, Joash began to reign as King in Judah. His grandfather was the very wicked Manasseh and his father was the wicked Amon. Joash had a heart for the Lord and did not follow in the idolatrous ways of his grandfather and father. However, Joash had no idea of how bad things really were. You see, the law of God had been lost. No one had read God's Word for years and years. In the 10th year of Joash's reign, the high priest, Hilkiah found the law and gave it to the King's assistant who read it to the king. Joash realized then how deep his nation had offended God. So, while Joash had a heart for God, from that point on, there was an urgency in his life to live humbly before God because he was finally aware of his real position. Again, that is why this prayer is so helpful. God does not owe us anything. For us to wake up in the morning is a gift, to have thoughts of God is a gift, to love and be loved is a gift, to have God's Word is a gift, to hear the gospel is a gift. If we each got what we really deserved we would be under the judgment of God. Anything this side of hell is the grace of God, which is why we should all acknowledge that we are doing way better than we deserve. To summarize...

5. **We are to pray every day because we need God every day for every need.**

We all are dependent on God for every moment whether we realize it or not. I had a DIY project at home recently that involved rebuilding a section of a wall with drywall and painting. I knew that I should do it, that I needed to do it, but I really did not want to do it because projects like that always reveal my limitations and it is embarrassing. I am looking at 3 guys right now who have helped me and have volunteered to help me and I know I could ask them, but I really just need to do this job. So, I did. And I prayed because I know that me and tools do not always get along. I knew I was in over my head, at least I felt like I was. That motivated me to pray. But there are other things that I do where I am tempted to go on auto-pilot. But Jesus is teaching us to pray every day, for everything we need because there is never a moment when we are not dependent on God. You may think that you do not need to pray for bread because you have some or you know where you can get some if you run out. We are tempted to think that because we have pantries, freezers, refrigerators and grocery stores that we really do not need to worry about daily bread. Not true. The truth is, we live in a constant state of need. You and I cannot move one single inch for God, apart from his help. We cannot accomplish anything of eternal significance without his empowering. I need help to preach, you need help to listen. I need help to understand, help to obey, help to love, help to think about others, help to consider it joy when I am tested, help to react with joy when I am inconvenienced for the sake of another, help to be content when I suffer loss, help to be at rest when my circumstances are upside down, help to not give in to temptation, and help to finish well. Jesus tells us to pray like this because he knows that God answers this prayer.

And when God's provision of your needs in this life come to an end it is because he is providing you a better gift in the life to come.